GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3230
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Division Bench of High Courts
Meena Shri Arjunlal;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of division benches working in various High Courts in the country;
(b) the names of the States from which demand for division benches is lying pending,
State-wise details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
(c) the name of High Courts where hearing is done in the regional language; and
(d) whether the Government proposes to initiate hearing process in the courts in regional languages and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
Minister of State for Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology.
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : Setting up of division benches in the High Courts are within the administrative control of the Chief Justices of the High Courts. The Government has no control over the administrative functioning of the High Court. As such, no information is maintained by the Central Government in this regard.

(c) : Use of regional languages has, so far, not been allowed in the hearings of the High Courts. However, use of Hindi has been authorized in the proceedings in the High Courts of the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(d): Based on requests from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh the Government sought the advice of the Chief Justice of India as per a decision of Cabinet taken in 1965. However, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India vide his d.o. letter dated 18.01.2016 has conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations disapproved the proposals and reiterated the Resolution which was adopted on 07.05.1997, on 15.10.1999 and on 11.10.2012.